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VADA, Mitchell County. Pronounced "Vay'-duh." Located five miles east of the Flint River on the Decatur County line. This community was first called PULLTIGHT, after which it was known as HARRELL. It is presently named for Vada Wooten, daughter of a former justice of the peace.

VALDOSTA, CS Lowndes County. Called "The Azalea City," "Vale of Beauty" and "Naval Stores Capital of the World." Pronounced "Val dah'-stuh." Incorporated as a town December 7, 1860. The name of the city was suggested by Colonel Leonoreon de Leon, editor of the *South Georgia Watchman*. It is derived from *Val de Osta*, Italian for "Beautiful Valley." Valdosta was the name of Governor Troupe's country home in Laurens County. Lowndes County seat was moved to Valdosta from Troupville (q.v.) in 1860. The city supplies 80% of the world's supply of naval stores. FORCE STREET in Valdosta was named for Mr. Benjamin Force, who refueged with his family from Rome, Georgia to Valdosta in 1863. MOODY FIELD of Valdosta was named for George Putnam Moody (1908-1941), who was born in the Philippine Islands, was a graduate of West Point, and died in an air crash in Kansas.

VALDOSTA STATE COLLEGE, Valdosta. Now part of the University System of Georgia, it was chartered in 1906 as SOUTH GEORGIA STATE NORMAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, and became coed and adopted its present name in 1950. The first building erected on campus was CONVERSE HALL, named in honor of W.L. Converse. The RICHARD HOLMES POWELL LIBRARY was named for the first president of the college. WEST HALL (classrooms and administration) was named in honor of the late Senator W.S. West, author of the first charter of the college, and first president of its board of trustees. NEVIN'S HALL (science) was named for Dr. Beatrice I. Nevins, professor of biology. The JEWEL WHITEHEAD CAMELLIA TRAIL on the campus was a gift to the college from Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Whitehead of Valdosta, and in the south woods of the campus is DREXEL PARK, named after the city's landscape architect, R. J. Drexel.

VALONA, McIntosh County. A community founded in the 1890's as a shrimping and oystering port by the Atwood family. It is located on Shellbluff River, nine miles northeast of Darien, off Georgia highway 99. Originally called SHELL BLUFF, but because of a community by this name in Burke County, it was then changed to this name observed on an Albanian fishing boat in the

harbor. Valona is the name of a seaport town in Albania.

VAN BUREN, Lamar County. *See* LIBERTY HILL.

VAN CREEK, Elbert County. Rises four miles northeast of Elberton and flows southeasterly to the Savannah River. Named after Van's Church, established nearby in 1785 by Rev. Dozier Thornton. The church had been named for David Van, a benefactor friend of Reverend Thornton.

VANDIVER, S. ERNEST, BRIDGE. Spans the Tugaloo River on U.S. Highway I-85 between Hart County, Georgia and Oconee County, South Carolina. Named March 28, 1961 to honor Mr. Vandiver, who served as member of the State Highway Board, and who's son, Samuel Ernest Vandiver, Jr. (b.1918), was governor of Georgia (1959-63).

VANN, Murray County. An early trading station which was located north of Spring Place. It was sometimes called VANN'S (OLD) TOWN. This was the home of the notorious half-breed chief, James Vann, a benevolent leader and constant troublemaker, son of the Scot, Clement Vann and a Cherokee mother named Wawli. His son Joseph was a wealthy slave-owning planter who built a substantial brick mansion in Spring Place about 1790, which is now one of the state's buildings of historic importance. *See also* Vann's Ferry.

VANNA, Hart County. Incorporated as a town August 19, 1912 to July 1, 1995. This community is located four miles southeast of Royston, and established its post office here about 1893. Named by the railroad mail agent, Mr. Ezra Bowers, for his cousin, Miss Vanna Ballinger.

VANN'S CREEK, Floyd County. Located in VAN(N)'S VALLEY, which extends southwestward from Six Mile Station to Cave Spring. Named for Indian sub-chief David Vann who lived at Cave Spring. There was once a community and post office nearby named VAN'S VALLEY in the late 1800's. VAN VALLEY CHURCH is located seven miles northeast of Cave Spring on U.S. 53-411.

VANN'S FERRY, Forsyth County. The first ferry on the Chattahoochee River, which was located 1 1/2 miles southeast of Oscarville. This site is now beneath the waters of Lake Sidney Lanier. The ferry built about 1805 by James Vann (*see* Vann), and the place was later known as VANN'S,

and finally after transfer of ownership, **WILLIAM'S FERRY**. *See also* Winn's Ferry.

VAN WERT, Polk County. Incorporated and designated the original county seat of Paulding County, December 27, 1838. It lost its charter July 1, 1995. This was the first town in the state to have a water system of its own, which was installed before 1887. Named for Isaac Van Wert, the companion of John Paulding, who assisted him in the capture of the British spy, Major John Andre (which thwarted Benedict Arnold's plot to betray West Point to the British). *See also* Paulding County.

VARNELL, Whitfield County. Incorporated as a city April 8, 1968. Originally called **RED HILL**, it was later known as **VARNELL'S STATION**, named for Mr. M.P. Varnell who was the early railroad agent here. General Wheeler defeated Union cavalry forces here which were led by Colonel LaGrange, May 9, 1864. **VARNELL (Militia) DISTRICT** is also located here.

VARNER'S STATION, Cobb County. An early name of **SMYRNA** (q.v.).

VASHTI SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Thomasville. Pronounced "Vash-tie." Also known as **VASHTI INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL**. Originally established in a former Cubana cigar factory, it later expanded to twenty buildings. Methodist owned and operated, it was founded in 1908. Named in honor of Mrs. Vashti Blasingame, mother of the founder, Walter P. Blasingame.

VEAZEY, Greene County. A community in the southern section of the county, named for early postmaster, Eli A. Veazey, who was a prosperous farmer who also had a general store here.

VEGA, Pike Community. A community located seven miles southeast of Zebulon. Vega is the name of a brilliant star of the first magnitude, and the word means "vulture."

VEREEN BELL HIGHWAY, Ware County. The access road, Georgia highway 177, which extends to Okefenokee Swamp Park (q.v.). Named for Lieutenant Vereen Bell, USNR, Georgia patriot and writer. His novel, *Swamp Water*, was made into two motion pictures by Fox Studios, in 1942 and 1952.

VERNONBURG(H), Chatham County. Also spelled **VERNONBORG**, it has sometimes been called **WHITE BLUFF**. Incorporated as the Town of Vernonburg, March 6, 1866. It was settled in

1742, making this one of Georgia's earliest settlements. Brinkley said it was "named by the early settlers of Salzburgers for one of their sponsors in America, James Vernon." It is located on the banks of the Vernon River.

VERNON RIVER, Chatham County. This stream enters Ossabaw Sound just above the Ogeechee River. There is uncertainty as to the origin of the name. Some say it bears the name of James Vernon, a member of the first Board of Trustees of the colony; others say it perpetuates the memory of Admiral Edward Vernon, who helped Oglethorpe drive the Spaniards from Georgia.

VESTA, Oglethorpe County. A community located 15 miles east of Lexington on Georgia highway 77. Named in honor of Miss Vesta Johnson, daughter of early resident, W.C. Johnson.

VICKERY CREEK (Militia) DISTRICT, Forsyth County. Located in the west-central part of the county. The post office was first established here as **ALLENSVILLE** (q.v.), became **VICKERY'S CREEK** January 13, 1846, and was changed to **VICKERY** on March 28, 1895. Named for the leading Cherokee Indian chieftain, Henry Vickery, who died here in 1834 or for his wife Charlotte Vickery. The former community reportedly had a population of over 100 inhabitants.

VICTORIA, Brantley County. The early name of **NAHUNTA** (q.v.). There was also recorded that a community of **VICTORIA** existed in Etowah Valley of Cherokee County. Both places were probably named for Queen Victoria Alexandria (1819-1901) of England.

VICTORIA BRYANT STATE PARK, Franklin County. Located four miles west of Royston. This 406-acre park was established in 1952 on property given by Mr. Paul Bryant as a memorial to his mother, for whom it was named.

VICTORY (Militia) DISTRICT, Carroll County. Located east of Bowdon. Named from the early post office, **VICTORY**, on the Tallapoosa River, 12 miles southwest of Carrollton. The postmaster was Victoria Hines. This community was also known as **McDANIELS MILLS**.

VIDALIA, Toombs County. Pronounced "Vye-dale'yuh." "A Modern Town for Modern Living," and now noted for the famous sweet onions grown in this area. First known as **JENKINS STATION** (q.v.). The town was believed to have been re-named by the daughter of the man who built the old Savannah, Americus and Montgomery Rail-

road. It is a coined name from *via-dalia*, "by way of (the) dahlias." However, Robert Davis said it was named for Jose Vidal, the first commandant of Concordia District, Louisiana.

VIDETTE, Burke County. Incorporated as a town Augusta 17, 1908. A community located 13 miles west of Waynesboro on Georgia highway 24. Named after a Dr. Vidette.

VIENNA, CS Dooly County. Pronounced "Vye-enna." Incorporated as a city February 8, 1854. Formerly called **BERRIEN** (q.v.), the name was changed to **CENTERVILLE** in 1840. The present name, after the Austrian capital, was adopted February 8, 1841.

VIEW, Habersham County. A community located five miles west of Cornelia, named for the unusually good view from here of the distant mountains.

VILLAGE HARBOR. *See* (Lake) Lanier Islands.

VILLANOW, Walker County. A crossroads community located in the southeast section of the county. The name is believed to have been taken from that of a magnificent palace, "Villanow," described by Jane Porter in her novel *Thaddeus of Warsaw* (1803). Sartain however reported that Mrs. Constantine Wood, mother of Captain J.Y. Wood, proposed the name, saying, "It is no longer a hamlet, but is now a village, or village now, i.e. 'Villanow'."

VILLA RICA, Carroll County. Pronounced "Viller-ricka." Incorporated as a town December 24, 1842. The original settlement here was called **HIXTOWN** (q.v.), and started as a small colony of settlers who came from the North. This is said to be the oldest town in western Georgia. Gold had been discovered here in 1826, which led to its being named from the Spanish, *villa rica*, meaning "village of gold" or "rich town."

VILULAH, Randolph County. A former settlement that was located on present U.S. highway 27 about eight miles south of Cuthbert. Named after the Vilulah Baptist Church, which took its name from an old hymn, "Vilulia."

VINEGAR HILL (Militia) DISTRICT, Walton County. The name was said to have originated when an innkeeper, Jasper Newton "Jack" Smith, watered down his liquor on one occasion to provide for a large number of guests who found it had turned to vinegar. It was also thought to have been named for the famous battle of Vinegar

Hill between Irish rebels and the English in 1798. This was also known as **LINDLEY'S DISTRICT**.

VINEVILLE, Bibb County. An early residential community of 300 to 400 inhabitants, on the hill one mile from the original town of Macon. Named for the vineyards which were growing in the area. Incorporated into the city of Macon in 1903, with the present **VINEVILLE AVENUE** extending through this section.

VINEYARD ROAD, Spalding County. Runs east and north just above Griffin. So named as this is a noted fruit growing region where particularly fine grapes are produced. There was formerly a community and farmers' post office three miles north of Griffin named **VINEYARD**.

VININGS, Cobb County. The early post office of **VININGS STATION** was established here in October 1868, named for one of the civil engineers who laid the tracks for the Western and Atlantic Railroad. The name was at one time **VININGS BRIDGE**, but the official name became simply "Vinings" in 1904. Much earlier than this, Hardy Pace moved his post office here from Paces Ferry (q.v.) in 1839 and called the place **CROSSROADS**. **VININGS MOUNTAIN** nearby had previously been called **PACE'S MOUNTAIN** after Pace had built a home at its base.

VINSON BRIDGE, Macon. This Second Street bridge over the Ocmulgee River was named in honor of Carl Vinson (1883-1981) of Milledgeville, who was U.S. representative from Georgia's Sixth District for over fifty years, a record unparalleled in House history. Also named for Congressman Vinson is **VINSON VILLAGE** of Macon, located in the southwest corner of the city. *See also* Ocmulgee National Monument.

VIOLA, Heard County. Community located three miles southwest of Franklin. Named for a Miss Viola Franklin.

VIOLA BEND, Dougherty County. Formerly called **HORSESHOE BEND** due to its shape. Located south of Albany's Oakwood Cemetery. Its present name was adopted after a boat called *Viola* smashed into the rocks on the side of the Flint River here and sank in 1846.

VIOLET, Meriwether County. A former post office from March 23, 1886 to March 23, 1903, which was located ten miles northwest of Greenville. The name was suggested by the first post-

master, James Cunningham Russell, who was fond of violets.

VISAGE, Towns County. A former community which was located seven miles southeast of Hiawassee. Believed named for early settler, William Visage (c.1793-1854), who was born in South Carolina.

VOGEL STATE PARK, Union County. This 221-acre park is located eleven miles south of Blairsville, with an elevation of 2,450 feet. It is

Georgia's second oldest state park (after Indian Springs), and is located on Lake Trahlyta (q.v.). In 1928 August Vogel gave the land for the park which was named in his honor. There is also a community named VOGEL located in Clinch County.

VULCAN, Walker County. A former community named for an early iron works located here. In Greek mythology, Vulcan was the god of fire. As Lagondakis pointed out, "Etna was where Vulcan had his smithy."